

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following additions/deletions to the claims:

1. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid by reacting a solution containing silver ions and a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid, in which the reaction is performed in sealed mixing means and which comprises steps of supplying the solution containing silver ions into a reaction field solution before introduced into the sealed mixing means, and supplying the solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid into the reaction field solution or sealed mixing means to which the solution containing silver ions has been supplied.

2. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 1, wherein Reynolds number of the solution containing silver ions is in the range of 500-20000 when the solution containing silver ions is supplied to the reaction field solution.

3. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid by reacting a solution containing silver ions and a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid, which comprises steps of mixing the solution containing silver ions and the solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid to conduct a reaction in sealed mixing means and removing by-product salts contained in the reaction mixture by filtration through an ultrafiltration membrane during or after the reaction.

4. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 3, wherein at least a part of a mixture obtained after the reaction of the solution containing silver ions and the solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid mixed in the sealed mixing means is circulated and returned to the sealed mixing means.

5. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 3, wherein at least one kind of dispersing agent is added before starting the reaction or before finishing the purification utilizing an ultrafiltration membrane.

6. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 5, wherein a nonionic macromolecular dispersing agent having a molecular weight 5-50 times larger than a fractional molecular weight of the ultrafiltration membrane is used as the dispersing agent.

7. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 6, wherein the nonionic macromolecular dispersing agent is used at a concentration of 0.1-30 weight % of solid content of the silver salt of an organic acid.

8. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, hydroxyethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose is used as the dispersing agent.

9. (Original) A method for preparing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 3, wherein the by-product salts are removed by ultrafiltration in which 2- to 20-fold constant volume dilution is attained, and then the dispersion is concentrated to a concentration of 10-50 weight %.

a3 10. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of grains of silver salt of an organic acid, ~~wherein grains of silver salt of an organic acid are prepared by~~ which comprises reacting a solution containing silver ions and a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid to prepare grains of silver salt of an organic acid, then ~~dispersion operation is performed by dispersing said grains by means of~~ a high pressure homogenizer or high speed rotary homomixer in the presence of a dispersing agent, and removing by-product salts ~~are removed~~ by ultrafiltration after or during the dispersion operation.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 10, wherein the dispersing agent is used at a concentration of ~~1-30~~ 0.1-30 weight % of ~~dispersed~~ said grains of silver salt of an organic acid.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 10, wherein concentration of the grains of silver salt of an organic acid is 1-10 weight % of the solution containing silver ions and the solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid immediately after the reaction.

13. (Original) A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 10, wherein, after the by-product salts are removed by the ultrafiltration, concentration operation is performed by the ultrafiltration.

14. (Original) A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 10, wherein, after electric conductivity reached within the range of from $20\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ to less than $300\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ as a result of the removal of the by-product salts by the ultrafiltration, the dispersion is concentrated to a concentration of 10-70 weight % by the ultrafiltration.

15-22. (Canceled) ✓